STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL DARRELL V. MCGRAW, JR. CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION 1-800-368-8808 or 304-558-8986

Press Release

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WEDDING WORLD, A MORGANTOWN BRIDAL SHOP, IS ORDERED TO REOPEN ITS DOORS ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2004, AND REMAIN OPEN FOR A LEAST FOUR DAYS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE PREPAID MERCHANDISE TO CONSUMERS

Sabrina Hyde plans to get married on October 16, 2004. In May of this year, Sabrina and her bridesmaids went to shop for dresses at Wedding World in the Morgantown Mall. The women purchased a bridal gown, one flower girl's dress, and five bridesmaids' dresses. All of the dresses were ordered and paid for in full at the time of purchase. Sabrina received her bridal gown and flower girl's dress weeks ago and Wedding World promised to deliver the bridesmaids' dresses by Tuesday, September 7.

On Tuesday, September 7, one of Sabrina's bridesmaids called the store to inquire about the status of her dress and no one answered the telephone. She then called the Wedding World customer service number and discovered that the number had been disconnected. Not until the bridesmaid called the office at the mall did she learn that the store had closed its doors forever. The manager of the mall told her he had some wedding dresses from Wedding World, but none of them were for members of Sabrina's wedding party.

Wedding World is a division of Wedding Store, Inc., doing business as Bridal by Kaufman, a Pennsylvania corporation. The company has 20 stores in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Maryland, and West Virginia. The West Virginia store was located at the Morgantown Mall in Morgantown and closed its doors on Tuesday.

On September 8, 2004, the Pennsylvania Attorney General's office petitioned for an injunction in the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania. Yesterday, the judge ordered all locations of Wedding Store, Inc., Bridal by Kaufman's, and Wedding World to reopen their stores by Monday, September 13, 2004. The Court further ordered the stores to remain open for at least four days so that consumers could come get their prepaid merchandise. Consumers who have fully paid for their merchandise may simply go to the store and pick up their merchandise. If consumers owe a balance on the purchase, the balance must be paid and the store will release their merchandise at that time. If the merchandise has been ordered but is not in the retail store, Wedding World will provide the consumer with the name of the manufacturer of the dresses, its address, telephone number, and all other necessary information about the order.

The Morgantown store will be open from noon to 5:00 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, September 13 - 16. Representatives of the West Virginia Attorney General's Office will be at the store to insure that the procedure go smoothly.

If you have any questions about this matter or need assistance in obtaining your merchandise, please call Attorney General Darrell McGraw's Consumer Hotline at 1-800-368-8808 or 304-558-8986.

Consumer Advisory